

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 DPW-01 SCS-03

SCA-01 L-03 H-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-13 /082 W
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R 091129Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1855

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

DIA WASHDC

JCRC BARBERS PT HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 22368

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CASC, VS

SUBJ: DEBRIEFING OF VIET-NAM RETURNEES: PART TWO: REMAINING
AMERICANS

REF: (A) BANGKOK 22253 (B) STATE 14346 (C) VIENTIANE 1847
(D) BANGKOK 17113 (E) STATE 189785 (F) 75 BANGKOK 19069

SUMMARY: GOUGELMANN AND GAY APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO THE
NORTH. THERE IS ALSO A REPORT OF AN AMERICAN PILOT LAST KNOWN
TO BE IN CAN THO. END SUMMARY.

1. THIS MESSAGE INCORPORATES THE RESULTS OF CAREFUL DEBRIEFINGS
OF THE 49 AMERICANS AND DEPENDENTS WHO DEPARTED SAIGON AUGUST
1, ON THE SUBJECT OF AMERICANS REMAINING IN VIET-NAM. IT DOES NOT
INCLUDE INFORMATION ON RICHARD HUGHES, WHO HAS SINCE ARRIVED IN
BANGKOK, OR TERESA REED, WHO IS EXPECTED HERE AT ANY TIME. IT
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ALSO DOES NOT INCLUDE INFORMATION ON MIAS, WHICH HAS BEEN TRANS-

MITTED SEPARATELY TO CINCPAC AND JCRC WITH THE REQUEST THAT IT BE REPEATED TO DEPARTMENT. INFORMATION ON CHILDREN OF AMERICANS IS SUBJECT OF SEPTEL.

2. TUCKER GOUGELMANN. MIKE MIELKE SAW GOUGELMANN, WHO BACKED OFF AFTER MAKING EYE CONTACT, BRIEFLY IN JUNE 1975. FRED GULDEN REPORTS THAT DEPARTED AMCIT PAT TROUP SAW GOUGELMANN AT THE IMMIGRATION OFFICE AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME. ON ABOUT JULY 1, 1975, GULDEN HEARD THAT GOUGELMANN HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ASTOR HOTEL WHERE HE HAD BEEN LIVING AND WAS SEEN BEING TAKEN AWAY IN A JEEP. GULDEN WENT AROUND TO THE HOTEL AND SPOKE WITH THE DESK CLERK, WHO CONFIRMED THE STORY. IN THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY 1976 A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF TIME MAGAZINE NAMED ANH TOLD GULDEN HE HAD KNOWN GOUGELMANN WELL AND THAT HE WAS NOW IN A SPECIAL SECTION OF CHI HOA PRISON. A VIETNAMESE WHOSE FATHER-IN-LAW WAS A HIGH PRG OFFICIAL TOLD GULDEN SHORTLY AFTERWARD THAT GOUGELMANN WAS REMOVED FROM CHI HOA AT BEGINNING OF JULY 1976. THAT SOURCE STRONGLY IMPLIED TO GULDEN THAT GOUGELMANN HAD BEEN TAKEN TO THE NORTH.

3. ARLO GAY. PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON GAY IS SHERMAN BENNETT, WHO VISITED MRS. GAY IN SAIGON ON JULY 29, 1976. SHE SAID SHE HAD NOT SEEN HER HUSBAND SINCE HE WAS TAKEN PRISONER APRIL 30, 1975. HIS WIFE THINKS GAY WAS FIRST SENT TO CAN THO AND IMPRISONED THERE FOR TWO MONTHS, THEN WAS PROBABLY BROUGHT TO CHI HOA AND ALSO KEPT IN SPECIAL SEITION. GAY HAS PASSED NOTES TO HIS WIFE FROM TIME TO TIME; SHE RECEIVED LAST ONE, WRITTEN MAY 6, IN SAIGON ON MAY 29. LETTER WAS POSTMARKED HANOI. BENNETT, KERRY HEUBECK, AND GULDEN BELIEVE THAT BOTH OF THESE MEN ARE BEING ACCUSED OF WORKING FOR CIA.

4. WITH RESPECT TO STORIES DESCRIBED REF B, NO ONE HAD ANY INFORMATION ON REPORT A (AMERICAN REPORTED DEAD NEAR EMBASSY SHORTLY AFTER EVACUATION) EXCEPT FOR MAURICE BAUHAHN'S COMMENT THAT HE HAD HEARD STORY AND SIMILAR ONES, WHICH WERE RIFE DURING THE DAYS FOLLOWING TAKEOVER. HE SAID HE COULD NEVER FIND A BASIS FOR ANY OF THEM. NO ONE HAD HEARD OF ANY INFORMATION REGARDING REPORT C (AMERICAN REPORTED DEAD MAY 2 NEAR THE NAVAL HOSPITAL).

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5. OF INTEREST, HOWEVER, IS REPORT B TO THE EFFECT THAT 2-4 AMERICANS WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED IN CHAU DOC PROVINCE IN JUNE 1975. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY NOTED (REF C) DR. FRANCIS STARNER'S SEEMINGLY SOLIDLY-BASED STORY ABOUT FOUR PRISONERS SIGHTED IN THE TOWN OF CHAU DOC AT THAT TIME, TWO OF WHOM WORE SIGNS AROUND THEIR NECKS STATING THAT THEY WERE CIA AGENTS. HEUBECK ALSO HEARD A STORY ABOUT TWO BODIES BEING FOUND NEAR THERE SOMETIME AFTER JUNE 1975.

6. HERMAN MCDONALD ALSO HAS INTERESTING COMMENTS ON THIS REPORT. HE NOTES THAT IN THE LAST WEEK OF MAY 1975 VILLAGERS FROM HIS HOME HAMLET DOWNRIVER FROM CHAU DOC (CHAU PHU) NEAR LONG XUYEN TOLD HIM THAT FOUR AMERICANS HAD JUST BEEN ARRESTED IN THE TOWN OF CHAU DOC. SEVERAL DAYS LATER HE OBSERVED WHAT HE SAID WAS A SOVIET-MADE HELICOPTER PAINTED GREY WHICH WAS FLYING LOW ALONG THE RIVER, HEADING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE TOWN.

7. AFTER MCDONALD'S ARREST JUNE 1, HE HEARD IN JAIL THE STORY THAT AN AMERICAN HELICOPTER PILOT WAS SHOT DOWN ON APRIL 30 IN CHAU DOC PROVINCE ALONG THE ROAD TO HA TIEN AS IT ENDEAVORED TO REACH A U.S. SHIP OFF THE COAST. AT LEAST ONE PASSENGER WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN AN ARVN MAJOR WHO WAS DISTRICT CHIEF OF CHAU THANH DISTRICT OF AN GIANG PROVINCE. MCDONALD SAID THE SURVIVORS WERE TAKEN TO CAN THO, THE AMERICAN PILOT WOUNDED TWICE AND THE DISTRICT CHIEF IN SEVERAL PLACES. THE LATTER, WHOSE WIFE WAS IN JAIL WITH MCDONALD'S WIFE AS WELL AS BEING AN OLD FRIEND OF HERS, RECOVERED AND IS STILL UNDERGOING RE-EDUCATION. MCDONALD KNOWS NOTHING OF THE FATE OF THE AMERICAN; HE HEARD ONLY THAT THE PILOT RECEIVED NO MEDICAL ATTENTION.

8. EMBASSY VIENTIANE SUGGESTED IN REF D THAT THE FRAGMENTARY REPORT OF AN AMERICAN PILOT WHO ESCAPED FROM JAIL IN HANOI MAY REFER TO A U.S. PRISONER MOVED TO HANOI FROM SOUTH VIET-NAM. IF MCDONALD'S STORY IS ACCURATE--AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT IT, SINCE IT RELIES HEAVILY ON WHAT THE DISTRICT CHIEF'S WIFE TOLD MRS. MCDONALD, WHO REMAINS IN VIET-NAM--IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS IS THE PERSON IN QUESTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE BELIEVE WE CANNOT DISREGARD THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER PERSON SUCH AS GAY BEING THE "PILOT", IF THAT STORY HAS EVEN THE SLIGHTEST ELEMENT OF TRUTH TO IT.

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SCA-01 L-03 H-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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R 091129Z AUG 76

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9. IN EARLY 1975, LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAUL MATHER, JCRC REPRESENTATIVE HERE, GAVE A RIDE ON A HELICOPTER TO AN AMERICAN WOMAN MARRIED TO A VNAF PILOT ASSIGNED TO NHA TRANG. FRED GULDEN HEARD FROM "A VIETNAMESE WHO TRAVELS A LOT" THAT AN AMERICAN WOMAN NAMED MARTHA ANDERSON WAS KNOWN TO BE WORKING IN A HOSPITAL IN THAT CITY AFTER THE TAKEOVER. AS OF THIS PAST APRIL, THE SAME SOURCE REPORTED THAT SHE HAD "DISAPPEARED" FROM NHA TRANG. WILLIAM COOPER NOTES THAT WHILE HE WAS AT CHI HOA, HE HEARD RUMORS IN JULY 1975 THAT THERE WAS AN AMERICAN WOMAN IN THE SAME PRISON. HOWEVER, THERE WAS ONLY A TWO WEEK PERIOD WHEN PRISONERS COULD SEE ONE ANOTHER AT THE WATER SOURCE, AND HE NEVER SAW HER THEN NOR HEARD OF HER AGAIN.

10. IN ANOTHER REPORT, GULDEN NOTES THAT HE SPOKE WITH A FRENCHMAN WHO SAID THAT HE DROVE PAST THE DUC HOTEL ON TRAN QUY CAP ON APRIL 30, 1975 AT 8:30 A.M. AND SAW FOUR VERY BLOODY BODIES (THREE CAUCASIANS, ONE VIETNAMESE) WHICH HAD BEEN PLACED ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SIDEWALK OUTSIDE THE HOTEL. (A GERMAN LATER TOLD THE SAME STORY.) BY AFTERNOON THE BODIES, WHICH PROBABLY CAME FROM INSIDE THE HOTEL, HAD BEEN REMOVED AND LYE PLACED ON THE SPOTS TO REMOVE THE BLOODSTAINS. HOWEVER, BODY-SIZED SPOTS REMAIN ON THE SIDEWALK, GULDEN ADDS.

11. AMONG OTHER STORIES, MCDONALD HEARD RUMORS THAT AN AMERICAN BUDDHIST MONK REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN LIVING IN CHAU DOC BEFORE THE FALL WAS LATER SAID TO BE IN CAN THO. DESPITE A STORY THAT

AMERICANS MAY BE LIVING IN TAY NINH PROVINCE, JOSE RIOS' WIFE, A NATIVE OF THE AREA, BELIEVES SHE WOULD HAVE HEARD OF IT HAD IT BEEN TRUE. CONCERNING THE RUMOR THAT A CYCLO DRIVER IN SAIGON IS AMERICAN, PERRY POLLARD NOTES THAT THE MAN IN QUESTION IS DEFINITELY FRENCH, RATHER THAN AMERICAN.

12. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED IN REF E THAT WE ASK ABOUT FIVE PERSONS POSSIBLY IN VIET-NAM; VICTOR AGOR, JACKY DORIS BAKER, HOWARD BORDEN, JOHN AVERY, AND REINARD DUPHORN. NO ONE HAS HEARD OF AGOR, AND BAKER WAS AMONG AUGUST 1 PASSENGERS. THE NAME BORDEN IS A PUZZLING ONE. DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT IN REF E NOTWITHSTANDING, BORDEN WAS NOT RPT NOT INCLUDED IN ALAN DAWSON'S LIST OF SEPTEMBER 1975 (REF F). INDEED, DAWSON HAS NEVER HEARD OF HIM. SHERMAN BENNETT THINKS HE MAY HAVE HEARD THE NAME, BUT WHOEVER IT WAS DEPARTED FOR FRANCE. GULDEN NOTES THAT A RED-HAIRED AMERICAN NICKNAMES "BRICK" WITH FRENCH PAPERS WAS SAID TO BE HIDING OUT IN SAIGON. AFTER TALKING TO ICRC SAIGON OFFICIALS, HE WONDERED WHETHER THIS MIGHT BE BORDEN. THESE REPORTS ARE ALL VERY VAGUE, OBVIOUSLY. DAWSON EXPLAINS THAT NAME JOHN AVERY WAS ACTUALLY FATHER JOHN TABOR, WHO ARRIVED IN BANGKOK OCTOBER 7, 1975. FINALLY, DUPHORN IS AN FRG NATIONAL WHO WORKED FOR OUR EMBASSY.

13. NOTHING IS KNOWN OF TWO NAMES ON OUR LISTS: JAMES MOSS AND FERNANDO K. THOMAS.

14. FOLLOWING CONCERNS U.S. PERMANENT RESIDENTS IN VIETNAM. MRS. NO THI GERZEVSKE AKA NGUYEN THI NO IS WELL, DAWSON HAS LEARNED. MIKE MIELKE REPORTS THAT HE WAS RECENTLY CONTACTED BY ANOTHER PERMANENT RESIDENT, MRS. DIEP THI HILLMAN AKA NGUYEN THI DIEP, MARRIED TO A RETIRED U.S. SPECIAL FORCES SERGEANT MAJOR, FRANK H. HILLMAN OF BOX 505, NACO, ARIZONA. SHE BURNED HER MARRIAGE
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CERTIFICATE AT TAKEOVER. MIELKE SAW HER SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE DEPARTURE, WHEN HE URGED HER TO MAKE HERSELF KNOWN TO FRENCH CONGEN, THEN NEVER SAW HER AGAIN. THERE IS NO WORD ON MRS. THANH THI GALE, MRS. KIM NGO LAFFIE, MRS. TRAN THI LIEU RIZZOTTO, OR MRS. PHUONG BROWN.

13. RIOS REPORTS THAT TWO DRUG ADDICTS, BELIEVED TO BE DESERTERS, ARE LIVING ON TRU MINH GIANG. THEY SHUNNED ALL CONTACT WITH OTHER AMERICANS.

16. THERE CONTINUES TO BE TALK ABOUT A COLONY OF AMERICAN DESERTERS LIVING TO THE EAST OR NORTHEAST OF SAIGON. ANDREW KAJI, WHO LIVED IN VUNG TAU UNTIL DEPARTURE, SAYS THAT HE OFTEN HEARD TALK ABOUT SUCH A COLONY IN THE AREA BUT NEVER SAW ANYONE FROM IT OR LEARNED OF A MORE PRECISE LOCATION. GULDEN HEARD A YEAR AGO THAT TEN AMERICANS MARRIED TO VIETNAMESE WERE LIVING TOGETHER

IN VERY PRIMITIVE CONDITIONS 200 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF
SAIGON, THE LOCAL POPULATION ALLEGEDLY OPINING THAT THE AMERICANS
WERE CIA AGENTS.

17. THIS IS THE SUM OF OUR INFORMATION ON AMERICANS REMAINING
IN VIET-NAM. AS THE DEPARTMENT WILL OBSERVE, MUCH OF IT IS
HEARSAY, OF DUBIOUS VALUE. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE SOME OF THE
REPORTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE ON GAY, GOUGELMANN, AND THE VARIOUS
CHAU DOC RUMORS, ARE QUITE INTERESTING AND ONES WE WILL
PARTICULARLY TRY TO FOLLOW UP IN FUTURE DEBRIEFINGS OF PERSONS
DEPARTING VIET-NAM.
WHITEHOUSE

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